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# Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel – Accelerated Growth

(REGIS-AG)

Monthly Report

May 2016



**FEED THE FUTURE**  
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Prepared for review by the United States Agency for International Development under USAID Contract No. AID-625-C-14-00001, Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel – Accelerated Growth (REGIS-AG) Project, implemented by Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA).

## **Resilience and Economic Growth in the Sahel – Accelerated Growth (REGIS-AG)**

**Prepared by :**



**USAID Contract #AID-625-C-14-00001**

**Submitted to:**

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**1 June 2016**

### **Disclaimer**

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# USAID/REGIS-AG Monthly Report 2016

## 1. Key Activities

- Au Niger
  - Facilitated the participation of 6 cowpea processors in the 23rd annual craft festival in Niamey
  - Opening of 25 Literacy Centers in the program implementation area
  - Organization of the USAID visit from May 11-12, 2016
  - Organization of workshops linking actors in the small ruminants value chain
  - Securing of land reclaimed by REGIS-ER under Component 5
- Au Burkina Faso
  - Training of 33 BDS providers and development of their corresponding business plans
  - Training of 31 Livestock Auxiliaries in the Centre-Nord and Est regions
  - Completion of the study on the input supplier mapping in the project area
  - Review of the offers to complete the baseline assessment
  - Training of REGIS-AG staff on the inclusion of gender in the implementation of project activities

## 2. Administration

- Four new REGIS-AG project staff members were approved by USAID in May and the hiring process is being completed for Communications Specialist Ramatou Guero in Niamey; Financial Capacity Building Manager Mamadou Tankari in Zinder; Admin, Accounting and Logistics Assistant Eric Ouedraogo in Dori; and, Finance and Operations Manager Beatrice Bangré in Ouagadougou.
- Completion of interviews for the M&E Manager position in Ouagadougou.

## 3. Activities in Niger

- **Sub-Activity 2.4.1. Select best products and promote new products at 2 market fairs or tasting events in each country :** REGIS-AG supported the participation of six cowpea processors at the craft festival “WADATA” in Niamey. Featured product included dan wake (cowpea beignet), beroua cowpea couscous, wasa wasa, and cowpea flour (kossey or kekena).
- **Sub-Activity 2.12.1 Support actors in linking to marketing groups in each region through preparation of a Strategic Plan for Interprofessional Organizations.** The organization of the small ruminant value chain linkage workshops is ongoing. The goal of the events is to facilitate marketing at the national and international (Nigeria and Senegal) levels between value chain actors in the small ruminant value chain.
- **Sub-Activity 2.16.2 Undertake study to identify ways to set up innovative marketing outlets in each country :** The selection process for the identification of the vendor to support the development of the strategy for the marketing of local eggs is completed and the activity will start in June.
- **Sub-Activity 3.1 - Identify input providers/agro dealers** – A report on the study and the mapping of the gps coordinates was completed during the reporting period.
- **Sub-Activity 3.9 1 Select AE and village chicken vaccinators (30/AE; 30/VVV) :** The project team worked during the month of May on the identification of Livestock Auxiliaries (AE) in Torodi and Makalodi.
- **Sub-Activity 4.1.2 - Identify appropriate center for literacy training in each of 9 focal districts in Niger and 18 in Burkina Faso** – The project opened 25 Literacy Centers with 25 facilitators in the project operational area.
- **Sous-activity 4.2.3 Execute capacity-building programs for BDS providers :** Trainings for 33 BDS providers were completed in May. These trainings covered topics including the value chain approach and farming as a business.

- ***Sous-activity 4.4.1 Meet with specialists at REGIS-ER and DFAPs to discuss collaboration on BDS*** - REGIS-AG, REGIS-ER, PASEM-TAI, SAWKI and LAHIA organized an exchange workshop on potential areas of collaboration related to the REGIS-AG trained BDS providers.
- ***Sub-Activity 5.1.1. Work with local consultants, conduct studies on laws governing private investments in land, water, and agriculture (1/Niger; 1/Burkina Faso)*** –The collection of the field data has completed and the processing of the data is ongoing. The draft report is expected to be completed in June.
- ***Sub-activity 5.2.3- Negotiate agreements with 3 municipalities in focal areas in Niger and 1 in Burkina Faso to establish co-management of markets.*** Four contracts were completed during the reporting period with the municipalities identified for the pilot on the co-management of livestock markets.
- ***Sub-activity 5.3.2 Support community access to land restored by REGIS-ER; advocate for its allocation to local women's organizations producing niébè*** - In coordination with REGIS-ER, plots of land were secured for women farmers through lobbying, donation and loan agreements. The women will grow cowpea, okra and other crops.

#### 4. Meetings in Niger

- On May 5, 2016, REGIS-AG DCOP and Program Manager participated in the COP meetings organized by USAID at CRS's offices.
- On May 10, 2016, a team from REGIS-AG met with AGRA Niger program officer Dr. Makindé to discuss input supply in Niger and possible areas for collaboration between the two projects.
- On May 19, 2016, REGIS-AG had an exchange visit from the USAID MEL expert in Dakar, Mr Bescaye Diop.

#### 5. Visitors in Niger

- On May 9, 2016, REGIS-AG received a visit from COR Jenna Diallo and USAID Niger Agriculture Officer Jennifer Karsner to discuss progress to date and project challenges.
- On May 11-12, 2016, REGIS-AG and REGIS-ER organized field visits for Mrs. Diallo, Mrs. Karsner, REGIS-ER AOR Thibaut Williams, and Regional Development Outreach & Communication Advisor Sara Passman.

#### 6. Activities in Burkina Faso

- ***Sub-activity 2.14.2 Improve marketing channels for poultry through (A) identifying someone in charge of marketing in each producer group; (B) linking producers to trained collectors in 1 market event in each country***  
After completing the identification of the poultry group leaders, REGIS-AG developed modules for poultry marketing during the reporting period based on the capacity needs of the identified actors.
- ***Sub-activity: 3.9.2 SVPP train existing networks of AE and VVV (31/AE; 30/VVV)***  
The last training sessions for the livestock auxiliaries was organized for the Est and Centre-nord regions. Thirty-one AEs, including 3 women were trained on topics including poultry rearing, flock management, practical guidance for community work and animal rearing during the dry season.
- ***4.1.3. Identify beneficiaries (450/Niger; 520/Burkina Faso), and evaluate training needs*** – Training at the 18 established Literacy Centers was completed in May. 459 women and 110 men received literacy training.
- ***4.2. Reinforce capacity of local service providers to offer Business Development Services (BDS)*** – Training for BDS providers is ongoing and will include topics including: tax legislation applicable to GIEs/cooperatives, trade regulations in ECOWAS region, and business plan development.
- ***5.1. Conduct study on laws governing private investment in land and agriculture*** – The report for this activity is underway and will be completed in June.

- **5.2. Identify pilot markets in Niger and Burkina Faso for inclusive marketing** – As part of the work on the co-management of livestock markets, it was proposed that the committees of eight individuals draft and approve rules for the market management. These documents are in development and resource partners have been identified to advise on the documents.
- **5.3.3 Carry out study of official and unofficial road taxes in Niger and Burkina on commercial trucks carrying agricultural commodities** The draft report is underway and will be completed in June.

## **7. Meetings in Burkina Faso**

- Participated in two RISE workshops with partners in Burkina Faso that will contribute to the 2017 annual work plans.
- On May 16, 2016, REGIS-AG and REGIS-ER attended a gender sensitization workshop and best practices in gender mainstreaming.
- On May 26-27, 2016, REGIS-AG participated in the validation workshop for the socioeconomic surveys for the PROFIL project.